

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02323 301203Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5212

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, AG, EFIN

SUBJECT: BUILDINGS, MUSTAFA RAIS PROPERTY

1. POLOFF DUNBAR AND I CALLED ON DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ABDELMAJID ADJALI MORNING SEPT. 29 TO RAISE WITH HIM QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR MUSTAFA RAIS PROPERTY. SAID WE REALIZED THIS NOT IN HIS DOMAIN BUT I HAD BEEN UNABLE GET IN TO SEE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. GAVE HIM AIDE MEMOIRE SUMMARIZING PROBLEM, AND NOTING THAT WE HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF MARCH 19, 1975 ON SUBJECT. NOTE, COPY OF WHICH BEING POUCHED AFN, DOES NOT PROPOSE COMPENSATION IN FORM OF PROPERTY IN DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE BUT SIMPLY SAYS WE PREPARED DISCUSS MEANS OF SOLVING PROBLEM. I TOLD ADJALI, HOWEVER, THAT I WAS AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE AN EXCHANGE FOR PROPERTY OF EQUIVALENT VALUE IN THE ENCLAVE. WE HAD NOT PUT IT IN WRITING BECAUSE WE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS PROPER VENUE FOR MAKING SUCH A PROPOSAL. I WOULD APPRECIATE ADJALI TAKING MATTER UP AT A SENIOR LEVEL AND SEEING IF HE COULD NOT PUSH IT THROUGH FOR US.

2. ADJALI SAID MATTER WAS WITHIN PURVIEW OF PROTOCOL AND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS. HE UNDERSTOOD MY PROBLEM (WITH PROTOCOL) HOWEVER, AND WOULD SEE TO IT THOSE DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS MINISTER INFORMED OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO MATTER HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH CASE AND COULD NOT COMMENT ON IT OFFICIALLY. HE COULD TELL ME PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, THIS SORT OF PROBLEM ALGERIANS WISHED WOULD GO AWAY. THEY WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT PRECEDENT INVOLVED IN ARRANGING FOR

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02323 301203Z

COMPENSATION IN SUCH CASES. THERE WERE SO MANY CLAIMS AGAINST

THEM THAT SETTLEMENT OF ONE WOULD LIKELY INCREASE PRESSURE  
FOR SETTLEMENT OF OTHERS.

3. I SAID WE UNDERSTOOD THEIR PROBLEM, BUT THIS PARTICULAR  
CASE WAS UNIQUE. THE ONLY OTHER PROPERTY CLAIM OF SIMILAR  
NATURE WAS THAT OF GERMANS FOR THEIR FORMER CONSULATE  
GENERAL WHICH HAD BEEN SEIZED BY THE FRENCH DURING WORLD WAR  
II. OUR PROPERTY, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN BOUGHT FROM THE FRENCH  
IN 1947. THERE HAD BEEN NO QUESTION AS TO OWNERSHIP AND  
THIS WAS, AS FAR AS I KNEW, THE ONLY GOVERNMENT CLAIM FOR  
COMPENSATION FOR REAL PROPERTY IN ALGERIA.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE A RESPONSE SOON TO  
THIS DEMARCHE. I HOPE, HOWEVER, TO FOLLOW UP WITH DR. AMIR  
IN PRESIDENCY, WHO HAS A GOOD DEAL TO SAY IN SUCH ISSUES, AS  
WELL AS WITH DIRECTOR OF JUDICIAL AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY  
IN HOPE OF GETTING A FIRMER GRASP ON PROBLEM. PARKER

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